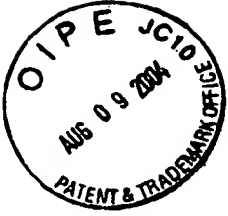


08-11-04

IFW AR/3732



Express Mail No.: EV452773148US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: ROTH et al.

Group Art Unit: 3732

Serial No.: 09/978,002

Confirmation No.: 3810

Filed: October 17, 2001

Examiner: Eduardo C. Robert

For: BONE FIXATION SYSTEM

Attorney Docket No.: 8932-266-999

REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of June 9, 2004, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks intended to place this application into form for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

*enter approved
8/30/04
Please enter!*